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NOTE

NEW SYNONYMY IN NERTHRA SAY (HEMIPTERA: GELASTOCORIDAE)

Two specimens of predaceous bugs of the family Gelastocoridae intercepted in Miami, Florida in an air shipment of ferns from Colombia on 22 August 1975 by F. Matthews confirm a suspected synonymy (Todd. 1955. Univ. Kans. Sci. Bull. 37(1), no. 11, p. 389). The specimens, a male and a female, represent respectively Nerthra ater (Melin, 1929) and Nerthra rudis (Melin, 1929) described in Zoologiska Bidrag Fran Uppsala, Band 12, p. 185 and p. 182. In 1955 I suggested that if the two names did apply to the two sexes of one species, Nerthra ater (Melin, 1929) would fall as the junior synonym. This comment was based on the concept of page priority current at that time. Since the shape of the male paramere is a better recognition character than the overlapped basal part of the right ovipositor lobe of the female, I place Nerthra rudis (Melin, 1929) as the junior synonym of Nerthra ater (Melin, 1929) [New synonymy].

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